

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe 0, Croydon 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers, for whom this has been a season loaded with injury problems, suffered one of the cruellest blows of the lot on Saturday when mid-field player Dave Allanson had to be stretchered off the field 15 minutes from the end of their Berger Isthmian League match with Croydon.

An awkward fall, following a collision left Allanson writhing on the ground in agony. After some prompt attention by 'physio' Ken Reed, Allanson was carried off the field with a knee injury which will keep him out of football at least until Christmas.

To make matters worse, this incident occurred only 30 seconds after Wycombe had brought on Steve Long to substitute for Dylan Evans. So they had to play the last quarter of an hour with 10 men.

Blues, to their credit, stuck it out well and could so easily have snatched a late winner, when Dave Cobb failed to hold Howard Kennedy's fierce 20 yard free-kick. But Long, under severe pressure, headed over the bar from five yards out.

Pressure

Victory was no less than Wycombe would have deserved. They dominated the play territorially but for all their pressure created precious few chances. Indeed it was Croydon who went closest to scoring.

Howard Kennedy, with his new responsibilities as captain, produced his most effective display of the season, while Mick Hollifield, who showed how relieved he was to have got rid of that burden was a constant threat with his elusive runs down the left flank.

Struggled

Unfortunately these were not turned into good effect by the front runners. Stewart Atkins, who has not recovered his early sharpness after injury, struggled to make an impression, while Terry Scott, although laying off the ball well, never looked a real threat.

One encouraging feature about the game was Wycombe's solidity at the back, boosted, I am sure, by the return of John Maskell after injury. The whole defence plays with much more confidence when 'Mask' is around.

That's not to say that Croydon did not have their chances. Alan Phillips, who sometimes gives spectators heart-failure, miskicked one clearance, luckily straight to Maskell, while Cliff Hall

headed just over after Alec Jackson crossed from the left.

This was Hall's only positive action in the whole of the 90 minutes. The rest of the time he was kept under lock and key by Paul Birdseye, who had a master-

ful game at full-back.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, J. Priestley, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, S. Atkins, M. Hollifield, D. Evans (sub: S. Long 74 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

CROYDON: D. Cobb, B. Constable, B. Walker, A. Ward, R. Shinnars, K. Crose, A. Prime, A. Jackson, C. Pooley, T. Welsh, C. Hall. Sub: R. Ward (not used).

Referee: A. Ward (New Southgate).
Attendance: 300.

Wycombe go for revenge

WYCOMBE Wanderers will be going all out for revenge when they entertain Leatherhead tonight (Tuesday) in the second round of the Hitachi Isthmian League Cup.

It was Leatherhead who knocked Blues out of last season's competition at the quarter-final stage. The match went into extra time when Blues, a man short following an injury to Keith Mead, conceded the only goal of the tie.

There's a question mark about Wycombe's League fixture this coming Saturday. They are due to be away to Woking, but if Woking won last night's FA Trophy first round replay with Waterlooville, they play in the se-

cond round on Saturday.

In that event Wycombe will travel to Carshalton.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

(Up to Nov 4)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	21	13	3	5	37	19	42
Leatherhead	20	12	2	6	37	18	38
Croydon	19	10	5	4	30	16	35
Hendon	20	9	6	5	31	27	33
Dulwich	16	9	5	2	31	13	32
Dagenham	19	10	2	7	33	30	32
Barking	16	9	4	3	39	26	31
Wycombe	20	8	6	6	28	19	30
Walthamstow	19	9	3	7	28	21	30
Slough	17	8	4	5	18	14	28
Tooting	22	7	7	6	26	25	28
Hitchin	18	8	3	7	25	29	27
Boreham Wd	18	6	4	7	23	27	25
Woking	16	6	5	5	29	25	23
Tilbury	19	6	4	9	29	42	22
Sutton	19	5	4	9	22	25	19
Staines	20	4	7	9	24	35	19
Carshalton	19	3	9	7	27	31	18
Oxford	19	5	3	11	21	42	18
Hayes	20	3	8	9	20	33	17
Kingston	16	2	4	10	13	29	10
Leytonstone	16	1	2	13	11	33	5